DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1.   Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group 1, claim(s) 1 and 3-5, drawn to a probe positioning and bonding device.

Group 2, claim(s) 7-10, drawn to a probe bonding method.

2.   The inventions listed as Groups 1 and 2 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Independent claim 1 of Group 1 contains the special technical feature of a stage unit comprised of an x-axis moving stage, y-axis moving stage, z-axis moving stage and a rotating stage which are vertically disposed one on another whereas independent claim 7 of group 2 contains the special technical feature of disposing a substrate having a bonding agent applied to a prescribed area thereof on a stage and plurality of probes are bonded on the substrate in a prescribed arrangement on the substrate. Group 1 lacks the special technical feature of Group 2 and vice-versa.

3.   A telephone call was made to Paul Durkee on November 15, 2007 to request an

oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being

made.

        Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must

include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the

requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims

encompassing the elected invention.

        The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To

reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not

distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the

election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

        Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not

patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of

record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the

record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions

unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection

under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

        Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Nicholas P. D'Aniello whose telephone number is (571)

270-3635. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from

8am to 5pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sam Chuan Yao can be reached on (571) 272-1224. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NPD
12/16/2007

/Sam Chuan C. Yao/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4111